

AP African American Studies

welcome to another episode of Mr Hague's podcast and in today's episode we're gonna talk about a rather controversial subject which involves the College Board accepted AP African-American studies which the governor of Florida and the supposed presidential hopeful Ron DeSantis and his crew rejected.

Now this has caused a huge uproar from not only the black community, well from all types of communities, now here you have an educational curriculum approved by the College Board. For those of you who don't know the College Board they're the ones who administer the SATs and the acts they're also the ones who administer AP courses. What are AP courses?

Well AP stands for advanced placement and these are classes that are intended to offer college level courses in high school in hopes of earning college credit. As you know, college these days are expensive. So to get college credit for free is highly advantageous for any high school students looking to go to college.

There are various types of advanced placement courses from biology to math to languages to history. Remember that one. History. So the AP African-American curriculum was planned and written by Scholars and it's a curriculum that was actually given the green light by the College Board to start as a pilot course now what is a Pilot Course. A Pilot Course meaning only a few schools around the Nation will be able to offer it. So the whole intention is to kind of see how it goes, how it all pans out and whether it's getting good reviews.

If it passes and if it looks like it's going to go well then the College Board will say okay well now we can offer it to more schools and and it becomes an actual regular AP courses which college, if they choose, can give credit to those who took it and passed it.

So personally I have a strong affinity towards learning about black history in America. I wrote a screenplay on my personal hero Harriet Tubman and during my research about her and her times I learned a lot I learned about what she went through her trials and tribulations about the time period about the oppression that a lot of slaves at that time had experienced. It was unthinkable, but okay of course I can go on with that forever but that's another podcast.

However when I wrote it I never intended to downgrade or criticize the slave owners or the overseers or the plantation owners or the whole slavery movement. Instead I wrote it to glorify Harriet Tubman so that people can read and realize that despite all the obstacles, despite all the challenges, the oppressions, the whippings, the lashings, being chased by bloodhounds, being sold, being this and that.

I mean all the craziness that they still persevered as a people. They still contributed heavily to American society, to our democracy, to our freedom. They still served in the armed forces. They still served in Congress and as politicians and of course we had our previous president President Barack Obama. They still become teachers. They become surgeons. They become attorneys. They become upstanding, heavily contributing people of our society.

So when I went through the curriculum of AP African-American studies I found really nothing that would concern me, but again, students have a choice to decide which course that they want to take you don't have to take.

Now the African-American curriculum involves four units and I have a link of that on my website you can go ahead and take a look at it and kind of see what forward yourself, what they have to offer and what might interest you. You are not required to take all the courses as far as I know. There are several different selections that a student can make and one that intrigues them.

Great idea. Right? Sounds like a good idea. Sounds like something that I would definitely want my son to take. I would love my students to take this AP class because from what I'm seeing it actually commends the African-American community and glorifies their accomplishments.

Not at all what they (DeSantis government) say that that it makes another race feel guilty and that's the one of the reasons why The government of Florida led by DeSantis put a stop to it.

So Governor DeSantis.

I'm in California. I don't know what life is like over there in Florida. I've been to Florida a few times, you know, Disney World and Orlando down to Miami and down at the Florida Keys.

Beautiful state. Good people.

But what really gets to me about this decision is that he (DeSantis) comes from a certain ideology that preaches less government. Now you know who that might be. You may be thinking, 'oh well he's talking about Republicans.'

Yeah but at the same time let me tell you not all Republicans think alike and not all Republicans are the same. Just like not all Democrats are the same. I am more into the ideology of freedom of speech and equal rights for all.

I'm actually in favor of this AP African-American studies but not because I'm a Democrat. I'm not going to tell you what I am right now, but it's more about the freedom of the teacher to teach a course and to be able to express themselves and allow the students to make that judgment.

So again, less government and less government involvement and yet Governor DeSantis got involved and put a stop to it.

How many Governors do this? If you got to look at the history behind uh Governor DeSantis you'll kind of understand that he really is a defiant person. He's a defiant politician and he got in uh from the blessings of President Trump and he was able to govern his state over the COVID pandemic.

This is a government that could care less about covid. He didn't want to hear about mask mandates. He didn't want to hear about closing businesses. He didn't want to hear about closing the state.

I mean Florida is a conservative state. it is a deep red State. The Democrats there pretty much don't have a chance at this moment and maybe not for years or decades to come. They're pretty weak over there.

But he has all these legislations. All these laws that he promoted (for instance with covid).

Governor DeSantis who has presidential aspirations is known to be a very defiant politician serenaded by then president Trump and following Trump and listening to Trump he pretty much defied everything that the science community had suggested.

For instance he could care less what the scientific community said about covid. He thought it was a hoax. He promoted that it was not anything big. Even though he himself got vaccinated, he didn't require that businesses or people wear a mask. He didn't have uh the businesses shut down. He didn't have the state shutdown.

Okay sounds pretty cool if you're a conservative but the problem is it resulted in about people dying from COVID and right now there are 7 million cases of covid in Florida as we speak. That's number three in the nation.

Then he enacted this don't say gay act. Now of course if there's anything in this planet that is an obvious uh targeting and discriminating against a certain populace I mean it's on the title, don't say gay. So basically that whole act states that the purpose is to prohibit classroom discussion.

Here's where I have a problem. Classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in certain grade levels in a specified manner specifically to kindergarten and third grade.

Okay. So you don't want the little kitties to hear about gay or gender identity. I didn't know that was happening.

I teach high school and I do have a gay populace. I do have a transgender populace. I love them all. I support them. I may not identify with them. I may not understand fully but the thing is that I respect them.

I'm at high school um I I had no idea that there are teachers there who talked about this during kindergarten, in the third grade. I'm gonna have to ask my son who's right now uh who's in fifth grade, so did his third grade's teacher mention anything about gender identity. okay I I'm curious no so I I

I don't understand the point of that act. I don't understand the point of that law. You know the the bottom line is that in the back of my mind I'm thinking are these people afraid that their kindergartners will turn gay

I'm not a sociologist or a psychologist but I think if that's a little too young and again it seems like it's a Fear-based law. I just don't see what the purpose behind it because at that age you're not really understanding a lot of Things. You're more interested in playing games and unfortunately these days video games. Again I just don't get that but at

any rate let's move on.

Then there's the stop woke act. W-O-K-E. So in this case woke means the Awareness of racial issues and of especially with social injustices and pretty much it's about facts and issues that happened.

I think it stems from the black lives matter movement. From George Floyd all the way the 90s, to Rodney King. And then Trayvon Martin all these incidents to Colin Kaepernick and taking the knee. They want to encourage black Americans to be aware to be awakened about the injustices that are happening right now and I don't see a problem with that.

The Florida Board of Education basically gave themselves the right to punish schools that are teaching this woke movement or these different things such as critical race Theory which they claim makes One race feel guilty from the sins of the past. Well I wonder which race that is exactly. The law prohibits the instruction that can make students feel responsible for past actions.

I don't think this is the intention of the scholars who wrote AP African-American history. I don't mean to make one race guilty. I don't even go into race discussions in my class. I listen to students who want to talk about it. Listen. Encourage free respectful dialogue. but I think what this really does is undermine the teacher it undermines my ability to have a discussion and be very mature about it

It's insulting that you're shutting me up, you're telling me I can't express myself. This is so close to a violation of my first amendment rights of free speech.

The student does not have to listen the student does, not have to participate, if they don't like it then you know they can ask the Counselor to drop the class.

I just don't understand what are they so afraid of because by not talking about it by not having a discussion this is what keeps racism going. It doesn't embarrass anybody I don't know. Anybody who is embarrassed by it because it would be foolish to make a current generation of like say white Americans uh feeling guilty for the past.

Yes, in the past there was a lot of Oppression. There's a Jim Crow movement. There was lynchings. There's all sorts of ugliness. That happens but I don't know of any current people who ought to feel guilty.

It kind of belittles the scholars who created the AP African-American studies thinking that that's their intention and looking at the courses in this curriculum. I don't get that but again my concern is who is governor DeSantis or any politician for that matter tell me what to say how to say. What to teach. When to say it. I mean yes we do have a syllabus I'm talking at the high school level we have a syllabus that we create and we follow it

I teach video production. I will teach them Adobe Premiere. I will teach them Photoshop. I'll teach them the software okay but now say for instance I want them to create a poster about gay rights or maybe veterans rights or maybe foster care awareness.

I want them to do that about breast cancer awareness.

There was a stop Asian hate rally. It was a wonderful experience. I had a lot of intriguing conversations and listened to students debate and make the crowd understand the unfairness of blaming Asians for the COVID pandemic.

Then all of a sudden in the background I hear white people, "what about white people? How about stop hating white people?"

I thought this was a display of immaturity at its finest. No one is saying they hate white people. We're saying stop blaming Asians. They're the ones who are being attacked.

So anyways. Scholars decided it was time to promote African-American studies and rightly so and as I mentioned before black Americans have a tremendous history in this country. From Slavery to oppression to Jim Crow laws to police brutality and of course uh Discrimination. Still kind of going on today.

However they persevered that's the key thing they persevered into major contributors to our democracy our freedoms our way of life.

I have a link on my website and basically there are four units

I don't want to be watched by a government agency.

I don't want to be told what to say or how to say it.

I don't want to be careful.

I don't want you turning my students against me.

I don't want them recording everything that I say every lecture I make.

I don't want them recording this sending it home to their mom and dad and all of a sudden it gets uh sent to the the district and all of a sudden yeah Mr Hague was talking about critical race Theory he's making me feel like crap because my great great great great great great great great great great great grandfather own slaves. Come on now I mean what is that all about so now you're pitting students against teachers parents against teachers you're real so saying that you're pitting the government against the teachers you're you're you're controlling the school board.

I mean come on can you say fascism you don't want to why don't you want to teach this why don't you want to teach us because you Governor De Santis and everyone like you think it's a bad thing I don't think everybody does hey here's the question okay I mean I don't think when you feel guilt when you make a teacher feel guilty about what they're teaching they give in I don't think anyone conservatives or liberals Republicans Or democrats or independent.

I don't think they want that I mean the southeast is a Haven for disinformation Education you had the daughters of the Confederacy uh saying that the Confederate War wasn't fought for slavery okay you know what you can't each though them however you want and to me that's in Doctrine that's more indoctrinating than AP African-Americans studies I I just I just don't understand why why people defend the obvious wrongs of the country they were wrongs everybody made wrongs every religious made wrongs every race made wrong sheyit's better to teach and allow for critical thinking you control education you control thinking you control thinking you control the person and do you really want a nation where the people are controlled do you really want a nation where the people just kind of listen to a single dictator or leader and do exactly what they're being told even though it might result in the deaths and oppression of millions and millions of people do you really want a country like that I think this is this thing in Florida is not only unconstitutional it's down right dangerous and again I will not keep my students from critical thinking whether I agree with it or not I allow them to be thinkers and they can express themselves the way they want I have gay students I have transgender students I have black students I have white students I have Asians I have all kinds of students and the only thing I see are students these people look up to me to educate them to make them better people and I look up to them to make me a better teacher that we can have a good dialogue I don't want to be careful how I teach I Can understand if I personally insult somebody I can understand that no teacher should be allowed to say that ass in the case the rest of society however this whole uh don't say gay act and don't and stop woke acting and this whole response where the government is some sort of heroic rescuer who are you really trying to rescue and who are you really really hurting well I apply to the University of Florida to get a master's degree in social media studies I'll tell you what I will rescind my application at any rate with that being said this is Mr Hague for Mr Hague's class you have any questions or comments about this please send me an email at Mrhaguesclass@gmail.com and that's it.

okay power to the people take care.